

MILITARY BALL TO AID TOBACCO FUND

Elaborate Affair Will Be Given at Hotel Ansonia on Christmas Eve.

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

Soldiers in France Write "The Sun" How Welcome Are the Smokes.

It is an old, old tradition that women are fascinated by a uniform. Whether the tradition will hold good in America where uniforms still have to prove their power of fascination remains to be seen. One thing is already proved—the military ball is going to be the feature of the season's dances. Men, on furlough, irrespective of national origin, in the departments who have not gone abroad will be counted on to give the planned entertainment the true, festive draw.

A big affair of this kind is slated for the night before Christmas at the Hotel Ansonia, in which The Sun Tobacco Fund is to take a real interest. The military planners of the ball have asked its assistance and because the funds, or a generous slice of them, will be donated to the fund. Soldiers know how vital a thing the smoke of the pipe is to them, and from Colonel to private not one of them but has publicly expressed thanks for the work The Sun is doing.

The ball in question will be the first one devised and directed by the officers themselves, and it cannot be anything else but a great success. The Ansonia management, with an unmitigated hospitality and generosity, will put the resources of the hotel at the command of the committee absolutely without charge. There is nothing vague about the disposition of The Sun or the Ansonia to help—neither deals in lip generosity—nor the plans of the soldiers are still maturing.

Wholly for the Soldiers.

One reading between the lines may see what has made the Tobacco Fund the biggest thing of its kind ever accomplished. It is the spiritual side of it which always there, but never made prominent. That every body should help, and help for the glow that comes through helping, is the basis of the Tobacco Fund appeal. The Sun asks nothing for itself, it offers no prizes, it holds out neither promises nor cajolements. It states a need and offers to bridge the gap between the giver and the pleasure who receives, that is the big "all" that constitutes its motive. And the people feel it, the people know that The Sun Tobacco Fund was not organized to advertise anybody, and its response is as generous to-day as it was last July, when the fund began with a donation from The Sun and The Evening Sun.

Everything that is to happen this week, like everything that happened the previous week, is going along these lines. Individuals, clubs, theatres, societies, all to do what they can, and the fund managers accept the acceptable offers and help the donors to fruition of their kindly hopes. Day by day these hopes mature.

There is, for instance, the unique affair to come off Wednesday night in Justice Johnson's little club in the basement of the Forty-fourth Street Theatre. A kindly spirit planned this, and in the same spirit will it be carried out, doubtless, to the considerable increase of the tobacco fund. Music, fun, the jollity of pretty actresses who wish to send more and more smokes to the soldiers, these will be the features of a very interesting and novel programme.

In addition there is to be the auctioning off of that life size doll which took Miss Johnson's place as hostess during her recent absence from town. Attired in the latest Parisian confection this dainty work of—shall we not call it art?—will be sold to the highest bidder by that naturally humorous and un-naturally successful auctioneer Raymond Hitchcock, and whoever digs down in his pocket deep enough to win the lovely simulacra is sure to transport some little girl to Paradise by turning his winnings over to her.

On Saturday afternoon occurs the first of the smoke teas to be held in a room. It was carefully arranged by Manager Silk, assisted by Mrs. Florence Richardson, and tickets for the Allerton House are now at a premium in consequence of their clever programme making. There is to be abundance of splendid music rendered by the pianist Hans Baruch and the Misses Carolyn Knight and Florence Nelson, and the serious part of the afternoon will be given by the Rev. Samuel Cranston Benson, who is known as a fine orator and whose vivid pictures of personal experience at the front have stirred audiences throughout the country.

The Rev. Mr. Benson entered upon his ambassadorship in France with true humanitarian feelings and a horror of war which made him a pacifist; he relates the conditions and circumstances which brought about a change of heart and moved to his realization that the world must be fought to a conclusion and the downfall of the Prussian military system and all that it means. The price of admission to this tea concert is but \$1 and the space of Allerton House will be taxed to accommodate the people who want to participate in it.

Dance at the Claridge.

Next week is to be even busier. There is the dance at the Claridge on the night of December 12, which Miss Grace Field means to make a joyous and money breeding affair for the fund, and to be remembered. The bill will be made up of special feature dancing, including an exquisite demonstration of the art by Miss Field herself, and the highest kind of intellectual vaudeville by Miss Grace La Rue and Earl Carroll. It isn't necessary to ask people to go to this dance; it may be necessary for lack of room to advise them to remain away.

On the same evening the Yorkville Lincoln Club holds its annual ball in Palm Garden, Lexington avenue and Fifty-eighth street. Half of the proceeds

will go to the fund, and this share will be large, for the tickets are going off well. Alexander dressman will have charge of the music for this joyous ball.

The Professional Chauffeurs' Club, William S. Lawrence, secretary, held its meeting last night at the clubhouse to conclude arrangements for their annual holiday ball, from which they will give the fund a generous slice. Han-Joe Wallace, who contributed so greatly to the pleasure of the Hotel St. Andrew benefit for the Tobacco Fund recently, will have charge of the programme for this twelfth annual ball.

Preparations for the entertainment and ball of the Algon Club, to be held at the Plaza Hotel on the night of December 29, are going forward enthusiastically; rehearsals for the entertainment are held daily, and the programme is about made out. The business "house" have been most liberal in their patronage of the affair, especially the restaurant, and the note being out of it. Full particulars of the artists who will participate and their acts will be at hand shortly. Meanwhile it should be said that the ball and entertainment will constitute a true holdover of the Christmas spirit.

The Schulte and United Cigar Stores have been getting full boxes since the Christmas spirit was evoked. On the upper West side of Manhattan, in the neighborhood of eighty-fifth street, more than 25,000 cigars were deposited in the boxes last week. Women patronize stores in this and other residential sections as purchasers for the men, and when 25,000 cigars were deposited, it was reported that the customers in uniform are among the freest donors of certificates. They have the imagination which reveals to them that some day they may be in the situation of the smokeless ones.

In the same spirit comes a letter with a donation from an "old soldier." "If the boys in France appreciate tobacco half as much as the men in Minnesota, if the being without a cigarette for days spells suffering, then I am almost sure that some day they will be in the same situation as the smokeless ones. I am sending in simply an investment anyway. Probably when I get over there I'll smoke it all up."

Letters From the Front.

A big batch of letters of acknowledgment from "somewhere in France" yesterday, adding weight to the necessity of keeping up the work of collecting for the Tobacco Fund by individual thanks, expressed in hearty fashion. It was a veritable pean of praise, and it was calculated to make any one who had done even a little for the fund feel that the heart of the word or two has been culled from a few of them so that The Sun readers may share this genuine gratitude. Here are a few of them:

"Dear Sir: Your package of 'Bull' was handed to me to-night (November 23) after four days of tobacco discomfort. You have done the heart of the first roll. The men were at drill, and at its close the arrival of The Sun smokes was announced. How they cheered! Many of the men had been smokeless for days. I am sending you many thanks. RAY E. SMITH.

"First Lieutenant, 101st Infantry." And from Private Robert Clements of the same regiment: "The boys all feel proud and happy to come from a country where they never forget us. Many thanks for the tobacco which will receive many pleasant moments from my share."

On November 14 P. Urquhart Wilcox, cadet, Aviation Section, Signal Corps, writes as follows: "Tobacco from France was very welcome. It is a awful hard to get smokes over here, and the French kid isn't very popular."

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now we're both happy. The Sun fund is certainly a godsend and the boys in the trenches will appreciate it more and more as time goes on."

And here is a commentary on the scarcity of tobacco when the last distribution was made from Private John Soderstrom of the Twenty-sixth Division, A. E. F.: "Before it came, when a fellow would light a cigarette the butt would be passed around until some one burned his fingers, but I guess those days are over now."

Six Jinx in a Message.

A half dozen of the soldiers join in one expression of thanks. On November 14 they write: "We are sitting around a camp fire this evening and enjoying the gift you have so kindly sent us. It is the most heartily welcomed gift any one can send."

Signed Anton Key, W. P. Howe, Charles Van Zile, Milton Marks, Herbert Ridwell, Edward G. Winby.

Capt. Chester E. Staten, commanding Company B, 104th Infantry, adds his testimony in the following words: "I wish to thank you on behalf of the officers and men of this company for your kind gift of tobacco. This donation has helped the spirit of the men, as it is impossible to get American tobacco here, and the men were about out of the tobacco they brought with them."

The letter is dated November 14, 1917. The Sun's letters from the soldiers are eagerly read, but how many communications made directly to parents have been sent indirectly to the tobacco fund? Here is one forwarded from Troy, N. Y., yesterday by W. E. Seales.

"I have just received a letter from my son, Corporal W. E. Seales, Jr., Company K, 102d Infantry, who is with the expeditionary force in France, in which he says he has received two bags of Bull Durham from The Sun Tobacco Fund. I expect they looked as big as a house, as this is the first tobacco he has received since leaving the country September 14. I have sent him four lots, but up to November 9 none had reached him. I wish to express my sincere thanks for sending the boys across the way with these comforts."

School Children Enthusiastic.

It was only possible yesterday to purchase the stamps and certificates at the principal banks and post offices, but within a few days they will be available to every man, woman and child. Hundreds of local merchants have placed their applications for authority to sell them, and as fast as the

stamps and certificates were distributed to the banks, trust companies and post offices, where they were placed on sale to the public for the first time. The campaign, which began at the same time throughout the Second Federal Reserve district, will be carried on for a year and during this period New York city will be expected to dispose of her quota of \$100,000,000.

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CITY'S WAR STAMP QUOTA \$100,000,000

First \$5,000,000 Worth Received by Local Banks and Post Offices.

CAMPAIGN TO LAST YEAR

Gov. Whitman and Mayor-elect Hylan Are Among Earliest Purchasers.

America's newest plan to raise funds for the prosecution of the war was placed in operation here yesterday, when \$5,000,000 of the new thrift stamps, war savings stamps and certificates were distributed to the banks, trust companies and post offices, where they were placed on sale to the public for the first time. The campaign, which began at the same time throughout the Second Federal Reserve district, will be carried on for a year and during this period New York city will be expected to dispose of her quota of \$100,000,000.

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